

**ARRAYS HAVING BACKGROUND FEATURES AND METHODS FOR USING THE SAME**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Nucleic acid arrays that have background features, and methods for using the same, are provided. The subject nucleic acid arrays include both hybridization features and background features, where the background features provide a background signal in a hybridization assay that is made up of a feature substrate component, a nucleic acid probe component and a nucleic acid probe non-specific binding component. In practicing the subject methods, the arrays are contacted with a sample and signals are observed for both hybridization features and background features. The background feature signal is then subtracted from the hybridization feature signal to obtain a background corrected hybridization feature signal that is employed as the output of the assay, e.g., to determine the presence, either qualitatively or quantitatively, of the analyte target nucleic acid in the sample. Also provided are kits for use in practicing the subject methods.